

REMARKS

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure was objected to for use of the term "means." "Means" has been amended to "member." Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 4, 5, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 ¶2 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 4, 5, and 10 have been cancelled. Further reference to "said drive means" has been properly recited as a "drive member". The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 are believed to be traversed.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wu (U.S. Pat. No. 5,927,976). Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Grafeco (U.S. Pat. No. 3,826,004). Claims 1-5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Walker (U.S. Pat. No. 4,220,446). Claims 1-5, 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Condon (U.S. Pat. No. 3,775,849). Claims 1-10 have been cancelled and new claims 12-22 have been drafted to overcome the cited prior art. The newly drafted claims recite the elements of the present invention in arrangements that are patentably distinct from the prior art, separately or in combination. Allowance of the newly presented claims is respectfully requested.

Specifically, the new claims have been drafted to include a polishing member, which is not found in Wu. Wu is directed towards a device for injecting a drug or anesthetic through a needle to a dental area. The Wu device is not used for polishing a tooth or teeth, as it is intended to penetrate the gum area. Accordingly, Wu does not anticipate the currently presented claims and allowance is requested.

Grafeco does not suggest or show the drive member as currently presented and claimed. The Grafeco reference does not have a drive mechanism that receives a plunger. As noted at Column 5, lines 63-65 of Grafeco, the plunger must be manually depressed. The present applications states that the plunger of the present invention is controlled by a drive mechanism, which removes the required human interaction of Grafeco, thus providing an advantage over Grafeco. Accordingly Grafeco does not anticipate the currently presented claims, and allowance is requested.

Walker does not contain a removable cartridge as claimed in independent claim 16 or the shield of independent claim 12, as currently presented. Both elements recite patentably distinct subject matter not found in Walker, and allowance is requested.

Condon does not show the removable shield of independent claim 12 or the removable through cartridge of claim 16. The Examiner has suggested that Condon has a shield, with reference to reference numeral 72. However, the reference numeral 72 is a clip (see Column 5, lines 8-9 and Figure 2) and not a shield. The purpose of the shield in the present invention is to protect the device from being splattered with dental material. The clip 72 is not capable of such protection and was not contemplated for such protection. Accordingly, Condon does not anticipate the currently presented claims and allowance is requested.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Condon. Claim 11 has been canceled. New claims 16 and 20, which refer to the reversible trigger previously recited in claim 11, depend from base claims 12 and 18 that are believed to contain patentable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 16 and 20 are believed to further contain patentable subject matter, and allowance is requested.

Applicant has amended the Abstract. Previous claims 1-11 have been canceled and new claims 12-22 are presented to overcome the prior art cited by the Examiner and recite what the Applicant believes to be patentably distinct subject matter. No new matter has been added. Allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

By



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